

Spencer, Nadine

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 11:38 AM
To: Kolman, Joe; Spencer, Nadine
Subject: Public Comments for EQC

Comments for EQC

Date: 31st July 2020 11:38

Your Full Name:

Dr Rin Porter

Email Address:

rporter@rea-alp.com

Subject Line:

Oppose hunting and trapping of bobcat, lynx, and wolverine

Your Comment:

Bobcat, lynx, and wolverine are threatened species that have almost completely disappeared from the US due to hunting, trapping, and loss of habitat. Please do not imperil their survival by allowing hunting and trapping of these animals. Please add them to the list of animals that may NOT be hunted or trapped in Montana. Thank you.

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/interim/2019eqc/meeting-info/

Comments for EQC

Date: 30th July 2020 11:55

Your Full Name:

KC York

Email Address:

info@tfmpl.org

Subject Line:

Trapper Education bill

Your Comment:

Mandatory trapper education was one thing trappers and non-trappers agreed there was a need for. This trapper education bill, however, digresses from HB517 and from what FWP proposed to the Montana Wildlife Commission and they approved. The Montana Trappers Association and all at the Trapping Advisory Committee were very much aware of Rep Smith's HB517 trapper education bill and all were invited to participate, even to the extent that she waited to construct the final draft. Unfortunately, instead, the trappers were instrumental in killing the bill. A bill that has been attempted now for years. Noteworthy, in Rep. White's bill draft are various exceptions to who would need to take the class. In doing so the goals of the education are diverted. Idaho was perhaps the last state to require mandatory trapper education. Their regulations require anyone to take and pass the trapper education class if they purchased their first trapping license after June 30, 2011. Much has changed with trapping regulations in Montana over the past years. In Idaho, wolf trapping class remains separate. This was agreed upon by all interested parties in Montana which included the Trapping Advisory Committee, the Montana Wildlife Commission, and other stakeholders. Wolf trapping advances a whole new realm of safety concerns for other wildlife, people, and pets. The way this language is written anyone 12 and older who took an advanced youth trapper class and anyone born after Jan 1, 1985, i.e. currently 35 years old and older, can set these monstrous leghold traps for wolves. These traps, known to cause swelling in the paw joints of a grizzly. These leghold traps so large some of us, trained to open traps, do not have the body weight to do so. Of additional concern, the language would enable anyone who took a trapper education class elsewhere would be good to go in Montana. They would not be taught the trapping regulations in Montana. That seems as a setup for failure for abiding by the law, less violations and for trapper education objectives. The goals to reduce incidental take, to learn best management practices, ethics, to become aware and familiar with Montana's trapping regulations and to increase public safety are lost in the gist of this language. Furthermore, it is outrageous to insert the ability to hunt lynx and wolverine. One is protected as threatened and the other awaits protection under the ESA. This is no way to gather widespread and universal support for a much needed mandatory trapper education bill. The passage of such a bill for trapper education would be disingenuous to the public. We encourage you return to the original language of HB517 which was based very much on what FWP proposed and was approved by the Montana Wildlife Commission, or in our final attempts for its passage, as we requested of the Montana 2019 legislative committee: "For this bill to gather the necessary widespread and diverse support from Montanans and meet the goals ascribed we ask that the bill be amended down to just a couple of sentences in a very simplified fashion providing the Commissioners the authority and final say: "The department shall provide a trapper education course

approved by the commission and that contains a trapper education advisory council equally represented by stakeholders. The trapper education advisory council is attached to the department in an advisory capacity only, as defined in 2-15-102. The latter from line 14-15 page 2 in the language of HB517. If there would be continued wrath then perhaps delete, "equally represented by stakeholders." And we urge a NO! Thank you, KC York President/Founder and on behalf of Trap Free Montana Public Lands board of directors

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